

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04083 150934Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 210
INFO USDA WASHDC
AMCONGEN BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4083

FROM AGATT FOR SINDELAR, FAS/USDA
BOMBAY FOR CLENDENEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, IN
SUBJECT: BILATERAL AGREEMENTS COVERING ALMOND IMPORTS

REF: FASTO 56

1. ALTHOUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS CHARACTERIZE TRADE BETWEEN
GOI AND COUNTRIES ENUMERATED IN REFTEL, ALMOND TRADE
ESSENTIALLY WAS LIMITED TO AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN PRIOR TO
MARCH, 1977. TERMS OF PRESENT POLY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY IN
RESPECT OF EACH COUNTRY.

2. POLICY UNDER WHICH INDIAN IMPORTERS ALLOWED TO IMPORT
ALMONDS FROM AFGHANISTAN DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN (A) ESTABLISHED
IMPORTERS AND (B) NEWCOMERS OR OTHER ACTUAL USERS. FORMER
ISSUED IMPORT LICENSES ASSIGNED A MAXIMUM VALUE AMOUNTING TO
32 PERCENT OF THEIR BEST IMPORT YEAR BETWEEN 1966-71 WITH THE
OPTION OF REPEAT LICENSES CONTINGENT ON FULFILLING EXPORT
OBLIGATION ENTAILED BY BARTER/CLEARING NATURE OF TRADE AGRE-
MENT. NEWCOMERS ISSUED FIXED VALUE LICENSES AMOUNTING TO
RS.32,000 EACH WITH SAME LICENSE RENEWAL POSSIBILITY.
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3. TRADE WITH IRAN ALL EFFECTED WITH FREE FOREIGN EXCHANGE
AND WITH NO EXPORT OBLIGATION. INDIVIDUAL LICENSES FOR SUCH
TRADE DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN (A) ESTABLISHED TRADE, WHO ARE
ISSUED LICENSES VALUED AT 25 PERCENT OF THE BEST YEAR BETWEEN
1951-71; AND (B) OTHER ACTUAL USERS WHOSE LICENSES VALUED AT
RS.50,000 MAXIMUM. SUCH LICENSES ISSUED ON AN INDIVIDUAL

BASIS, I.E. DO NOT QUALIFY FOR RENEWAL.

4. PRIVATE TRADE SOURCES REVEAL TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN
HINDERED BY BARTER NATURE OF CURRENT AGREEMENT, RECENT RATE
OF EXCHANGE ADOPTED FOR SUCH TRADE, AND RECENT INTRODUCTION
OF PRIVATE BANKING FACILITIES INTO SUCH TRADE. EXCHANGE RATE
REPRESENTS A DEVALUATION OF THE INDIAN RUPEE AMOUNTING TO
35 PERCENT IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS, AND BANKING FACILITIES ARE
NEW TO SUCH TRADE AND HAVE ADDED A COMMISSION CHARGE TO THE COST
OF THE PRODUCT AMOUNTING TO 5 PERCENT OF THE INVOICE VALUE.
GOHEEN

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